



**Independent Joint Anti-Corruption  
Monitoring & Evaluation Committee**

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## **B A C K G R O U N D E R**

### **MEC Releases latest Six-Month Report Revealing Anti-corruption Successes and Failures**

***MEC has released its latest six-month report that highlights the latest efforts to fight corruption in Afghanistan***

- MEC is comprised of three national and three international anti-corruption experts appointed to monitor and evaluate anti-corruption efforts in Afghanistan.
- MEC issues a report every six months to inform the public, Parliament, the President of Afghanistan and international community on the status of corruption in Afghanistan and to provide an update on MEC's activities.
- The current six-month report covers the period of July – December 2013.

***MEC has developed and issued over a hundred recommendations and benchmarks to improve the fight against corruption***

- MEC has issued over 100 recommendations in the areas of governance, prevention and law enforcement affecting a variety of government and international institutions.
- Recommendations are based on extensive research and consultation with clearly articulated problems and policy goals.
- Over the past six months new recommendations have been issued in relation to enhanced transparency in mining, election campaign financing, and governance and accountability within the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA).

***MEC's assessment of the implementation of recommendations has identified organizations that have not made progress in the fight against corruption***

- MEC has assessed whether implementing institutions have implemented its recommendations fully, partially, or not at all.
- This assessment formed the basis for assigning a score to implementing institutions that has allowed them to be ranked according to their success in fighting corruption.
- This ranking reveals that the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations (MORR), the Kabul Bank Special Tribunal, and the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) are the worst performing agencies in the fight against corruption.

***MEC's monitoring activities continue to identify serious concerns with impunity in Afghanistan***

- Hundreds of corruption cases have been reported to the Attorney General's Office by other government agencies, including the Supreme Audit Office, the High Office of



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Oversight, the Afghanistan Land Authority (ARAZI), and the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG).

- Despite these referrals, reporting agencies have not been informed of any investigation or prosecution of these cases and insufficient progress has been made in prosecuting corruption.
- The enhanced use of the case management system could better track the status of these cases and hold individuals to account for their progress. MEC's request to access the case management system to monitor corruption cases has been rejected.

### ***Impunity is particularly evident in the Kabul Bank and National Military Hospital proceedings***

- MEC continues to monitor the Kabul Bank proceedings. Unfortunately, the Court of Appeal has introduced unnecessary delays to the resolution of the substantive criminal issues calling into question its sincerity in resolving the case.
- MEC was also disturbed to observe the dismissal of charges related to the National Military Hospital. The deficiencies in the investigation process resulted in no one being convicted in this case, which is an egregious outcome given the evident extent of patient abuse.

### ***There has been some notable progress in anti-corruption efforts***

- The Ministry of Economy has led the initiative to implement MEC's recommendation to join the Construction Sector Transparency Initiative (CoST), which promotes transparency and accountability in publicly financed construction.
- The Ministry of Haj and Religious Affairs (MoHRA), Integrity Watch Afghanistan and Harakat have launched a country wide anti-corruption campaign through religious scholars following MEC's recommendation to fight corruption through public awareness and trainings on anti-corruption conducted by religious scholars.

### ***MEC's activities over the past six-months have included several missions to Kabul and other provinces and extensive consultations with key stakeholders***

- MEC held two quarterly missions to Afghanistan in the reporting period in accordance with their mandate. During the missions the Committee met representatives of government and international institutions, conducted outreach sessions with civil society organizations, visited provinces, and approved new recommendations and benchmarks.
- The Committee and MEC Secretariat staff conducted consultations in several provinces such as Balkh, Herat, Nangarhar, Kunar, Bamyán, Helmand, Kandahar, Kunduz and Kapisa.



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- MEC acts as a key facilitator and coordinator among actors in the fight against corruption in Afghanistan. To date MEC has met over a hundred individuals from over a hundred government institutions and civil society organizations, as well as the international community.

***In the coming months MEC will provide an independent perspective on a variety of other legislative and programmatic issues***

- Among other initiatives, MEC is currently developing whistleblowing legislation, studying aid effectiveness, and conducting a vulnerability to corruption assessment on the importation of pharmaceuticals.
- MEC will release a report reviewing land usurpation issues containing recommendations to address systemic issues perpetuating the problem in Afghanistan.

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